

**To: Ernest Hilton, Chair
Members of the Board of Environmental Protection**

**From: Susan Davies, Division of Environmental Assessment
Bureau of Land and Water Quality, Maine Dept. Environmental Protection**

**Subject: Request for a Public Hearing: 2008 recommendations for the water quality
reclassification of certain Maine waters and review of water quality standards;**

Date: August 21, 2008

Statutory and Regulatory Reference:

Title 38 M.R.S. Section 464, 2; 464, 2-A; 464, 3; 464, 4; 467; 468; 469

Location of Interest:

Statewide

Description:

38 M.R.S. 464 directs the Board to initiate these proceedings, to provide public notice, to hold public hearings on reclassification of waterbodies and to provide final recommendations for the Legislature to consider. The Department plans to submit a legislative proposal so that these recommendations may be incorporated as legislation in the next session. At public hearing the Board will receive recommendations for changes in water quality standards and classifications assigned to specific waterbodies and will also accept any testimony regarding the adequacy of water quality goals and water quality standards.

Department Briefing:

The attached materials provide a summary of the reclassification process, proposals received to date, and recommendations from the Department about decisions concerning those proposals. It is requested that the Board review these proposals and schedule a public hearing prior to amending and taking a final vote on which proposals the Board recommends for the Legislature to consider during the next regular session. **The Department requests the Board to conduct a public hearing on the reclassification package on September 18, 2008.**

Estimated time of briefing presentation: 1/2 hour